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RECENT LITERATURE.

'The Auk' Index, 1901-1910.—The first 'Auk' Index was published in 1907, and covered the period 1876-1900, it including the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club,' virtually the first series of 'The Auk,' and the first seventeen volumes of 'The Auk.' It set a high standard for index makers, and, as said by a reviewer (*Auk*, XXV, 1908, p. 100), "We know of no index to scientific literature comparable with this in point of detail and utility." The new Index, covering the period 1901-1910, is prepared on essentially the same plan, and in typography and make-up the pages of the two works are nearly exact counterparts. The index matter covers a much smaller number of pages (250 instead of 426) than were required in the earlier volume, as it embraces only ten years instead of twenty-five, but the amount per year averages twice greater. The introductory matter, however, occupies 28 pages instead of 7. This includes an 'Introduction' of ten pages by the Chairman of the Index Committee, Dr. T. S. Palmer, who is also the chief editor, giving an account of the plan of the work, the composition of the Committee, and acknowledgements of aid. This is followed by a 'Biographical Index,' and a 'Supplement to the Twenty-five Year Index.' The latter relates to the names of authors mentioned in the general index, completing names that were not given fully in the first index, and adding the date of birth, and also of death of those not now living. Of 175 names previously more or less defective 140 have been completed, at great cost of labor in efforts to secure the missing information.

The 'Biographical Index,' by Dr. Palmer, is a new feature, and one of high interest and importance as a record of the date and place of birth, and also of death in case they are deceased, of some 275 ornithologists, among which, as the author states, "will be found many of those most prominent in the annals of ornithology in America and Europe, especially during the last 40 years." In addition to these items, an asterisk prefixed to a name indicates that a biographical notice of the person has appeared in 'The Auk,' to which a reference is given. This list occupies 13 pages in double column, and we have no doubt will be consulted more frequently and valued more highly than any other part of the volume. The amount of correspondence and research involved in its compilation can be appreciated only by the few who have attempted similar work.

¹ Ten Year Index | to | The Auk | Volumes XVIII-XXVII — 1901-1910 | Prepared by a Committee of the | American Ornithologists' Union | Edited by | T. S. Palmer and W. W. Cooke | [vignette] New York | Published by the American Ornithologist's Union | 1915 — 8vo, pp. xxviii + 250. Price in paper covers, \$2; bound in cloth, \$3. Orders should be addressed to Jonathan Dwight, Jr., Treasurer, 134 West 71st St., New York, N. Y.

It was voted to prepare the present index at the meeting of the A. O. U. held in Cambridge, in November, 1912. Dr. T. S. Palmer was appointed chairman with power to select the members of the Index Committee. "A few weeks later," as stated in the introduction, "a committee of 13 members was organized, with Professor W. W. Cooke as secretary, and at a meeting on February 7, 1913, plans were perfected and the work distributed." The aid of Dr. Dwight, Chairman of the original Index Committee, and of Dr. Richmond and Dr. Stone, editor of 'The Auk,' was secured in correcting the proof. The Committee eventually comprised 22 members, divided into three subcommittees, to each of which were assigned special features of the work. To Professor Cooke, the secretary of the committee, fell the work of preparing the copy for the press. The manuscript was in the hands of the editor in April, 1914, but through delays in printing and proofreading the issue of the work was delayed till early in 1915. The Index Committee has thus made a good record for promptness and efficiency in its difficult task.—J. A. A.

The New B. O. U. List.¹—After a lapse of thirty-two years we have a second edition of the official list of British birds. It is well conceived, well carried out in detail and well printed. Full headings to all higher groups are given as in the A. O. U. Check-List, which is an improvement over the recent 'Hand-List' of Dr. Hartert and his associates. In the case of generic headings the reference and type are always given while the etymology and origin of all scientific names are explained. The synonymy under each species consists of references to the original place of publication, the first edition of the B. O. U. List, the 'Catalogue of Birds of the British Museum', and Saunders' 'Manual' 2nd edition; or in the case of recent additions to the first record of the bird in the British Isles. There is then a paragraph on 'Distribution in the British Islands' and 'General Distribution.' The data on Migration are not so full as in the 'Hand-List' nor are they given a separate paragraph. When subspecies are recognized the so called typical race is given binomially without the duplication of the specific name and the trinomials are printed in smaller type, following exactly the style of the original A. O. U. Check-List, a much less consistent plan than that of the last edition of this work or of the British 'Hand-List.'

In the introduction, beside the rules which governed the Committee's labors there is a 'Summary of British Birds according to their Status,' in which there are listed 141 Residents, 47 Summer Visitors, 46 Winter Visitors, 30 Birds of Passage, 61 Occasional Visitors, 149 Rare Visitors and 1 Extinct Species; total 475, an increase of 99 over the first edition. There are three appendices; (1), a hypothetical list; (2), a list of "nomina conservanda"; and

¹ A List | of | British Birds | Compiled by a Committee | of the | British Ornithologists' Union | *vignette* | Second and Revised Edition | Published by the | British Ornithologists' Union | and sold by | William Weesly & Son, 28 Essex Street, Strand, | London, W. C. | 1915. 8vo, pp. i-xxii + 1-430. Price, 7s. 6d.